

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 are pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added and claims 3-17 have been canceled through this reply. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Preliminary Comments

Objection to Abstract

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's withdrawal of the objection to the abstract.

Objection to Claims

Applicant has amended claim 1 merely to correct minor typographical errors as instructed by the Examiner.

Cancellation of claims 3-17

The Applicant has canceled claims 3-8, thus the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 3-8 should be withdrawn. Also, claims 9-17 are canceled to ensure the amendment will be entered by the Examiner. The Amendment should be entered because it places the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal and because the current Amendment does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kutner (U.S. Patent 4,786,968) in view of Ota (U.S. Patent 4,987,426) in further view of Masaya (Japanese Patent No. 2001-008104). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kutner in view of Ota in view of Masaya in further view of Utagawa (US Patent No. 6,529,640). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

For a Section 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. *See M.P.E.P. 2142*. One requirement to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *See M.P.E.P. 2142; M.P.E.P. 706.02(j)*. Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

Feature of claim 1 not taught by Ota:

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “an overwriting step of overwriting a LUT written into a table storage area with another LUT, in accordance with a content of each of a plurality of processes executed to a first signal or a second signal”. *Emphasis added*. The Examiner cited Ota for the alleged teaching of overwriting a LUT written into the table storage area with another LUT in accordance with a content of each of a plurality of processes executed to a first signal or a second signal. The Applicant traverses the rejection based on the Ota reference.

Ota discloses that “the look-up table 5 is usually constituted by a RAM, and its content can be freely rewritten by a microcomputer and the like” (col. 8 lines 12-15). However, Ota fails to teach or suggest based on what the content of the RAM (look-up table 5) is rewritten. To the contrary, independent claim 1 recites overwriting the LUT written into the table storage area with another LUT in accordance with a content of each of a plurality of processes executed to a first signal or a second signal. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Ota and the other cited references.

The deficiencies of the Ota reference were discussed above and the Office Action does not rely on Kutner, Masaya, Park, and Utagawa to teach the features asserted above for patentability. Further, Kutner, Masaya, Park, and Utagawa do not make up for the deficiencies

of the Ota reference. In sum, the references of Kutner, Masaya, Park, and Utagawa, and Ota, individually or in any combination, do not teach the deficiencies of the Ota reference as discussed above. Dependant claim 2 is allowable for the deficiencies of the Ota reference for independent claim 1 as set forth above.

Conclusion

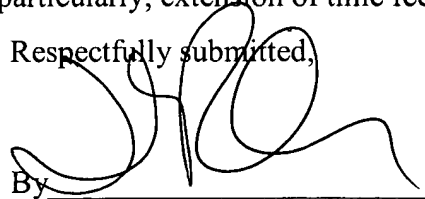
Therefore, for at least these reasons, all claims are believed to be distinguishable over the combination of Kutner, Masaya, Park, and Utagawa, and Ota, individually or in any combination. It has been shown above that the cited references, individually or in combination, may not be relied upon to show at least these features. Therefore, claims 1-2 are distinguishable over the cited references. In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the claims 1-2 be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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